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(54) Title: PROTECTIVE RECOMBINANT HAEMOPHILUS INFLUENZAE HIGH MOLECULAR WEIGHT PROTEINS

(57) Abstract

Protective high molecular weight (HMW) proteins are produced recombinantly by expression from *E. coli* by using a promoter effective in *E. coli* and a nucleic acid molecule which contains a modified operon of a non-typeable strain of *Haemophilus*. The modified operon contains the portion only of the A region which encodes the mature HMW protein and the complete B and C regions of the operon. Enhanced levels of expression of the HMW proteins can be achieved by including the *E. coli cer* gene, a further copy of the portion of the A region of the operon encoding the mature protein or both, in the expression vector. Nucleotide and deduced amino acid sequences of the *hmwl* and *hmw2* genes and HMW1 and HMW2 proteins, respectively, of several non-typeable *Haemophilus influenzae* strain have been identified.